

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on April 21, 2004. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 2 is amended, without change of scope. No new matter is introduced. Claims 1-4 remain in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement, which was filed on March 29, 2004.

Objection was raised to claim 2, based upon its recitation of the term "branched". The compound to which claim 2 refers as "branched" contains the moiety Rf¹. Rf¹ includes the moieties -OCF₂CF(CF₃) - and -CF(CF₃)CF₂O-. Actually, as the Examiner will recognize, these moieties are identical, in one case being described left-to-right and in the other case being described right-to-left. These moieties are "branched", in the sense that their trifluoromethyl groups are attached to their linear perfluoroethylene chains. Accordingly, the characterization of the compounds in question as "branched" is proper. However, inasmuch as that characterization is unnecessary to the definition of the compounds recited in claim 2 - such compounds being defined by structural formulae - Applicants have deleted the term in question in order to expedite prosecution. It is emphasized that this

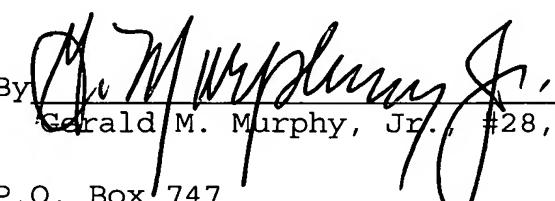
amendment of claim 2 has absolutely no effect on the scope of claim 2.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Rick Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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